



2006 Fiscal Report

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

"This is a very popular and much needed program. Colorado's agricultural land conversions had reached astronomical proportions with some estimates exceeding more than 200,000 converted acres per year."

NRCS Program Manager

 Natural Resources
Conservation Service
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND
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County	Type	# Contracts	Acres	Fed. Share
Montezuma	Ranch	2	300	\$416,470
Rio Blanco	Ranch	1	715	\$602,520
Rio Blanco	Ranch	1	1,080	\$402,440
Saguache	Ranch	1	964	\$602,488
Weld	Farm	1	115	\$232,750
Total		6	3,174	\$2,256,668

The Program

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchlands in agricultural use. By working through existing land conservation programs, USDA partners with State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

The Benefits

- ◆ Landowners are compensated now for the development value of their lands while retaining fee ownership and control of the land.
- ◆ Working agricultural lands, many with soils rated as "Prime Farmland," are protected for perpetual agricultural use.
- ◆ Rural communities and economies are made more stable as more working agriculture lands are protected and long-term agricultural use is assured.
- ◆ Supports local and regional efforts at managing growth and development and reducing unnecessary costs related to serv-

icing growth from sprawl.

- ◆ Provides open space buffers between cities and towns, allowing them to retain their own unique identities.
- ◆ Natural landscapes and wildlife habitats are afforded protection since FRPP lands will not be converted to non-agricultural uses.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify, farmland must:

- ◆ Be subject to a pending offer from a State, Tribe, or local farmland protection program
- ◆ Be privately owned
- ◆ Have a conservation plan for any highly erodible land
- ◆ Be large enough to sustain agricultural production
- ◆ Be accessible to markets for what the land produces
- ◆ Have adequate infrastructure and local agricultural support services
- ◆ Be located in an area where there are other parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.